

May 15, 1975

who did work on it. Senator Anderson, I know, understands it. I know Senator DeCamp does. Unfortunately he's not here now to explain it, but it is a good bill. It is a good compromise. I believe ... the last thing that Senator DeCamp told me when I visited with him about the bill was that he felt that Mr. Neal's complaints or his fears were no longer justified. Those criticisms had been taken care of in the amendments prepared by Senator DeCamp and Senator Anderson. I think the bill is very important. I think that it needs to be passed. It needs to be passed now. I'm not asking you to buy a cat in a sack, or a pig in a poke. I'm asking you to take the delivered results of a lot of hours of hard work and act on the bill. You can spend as much time as you want, if you want it. The bill needs to be passed, and it needs to be passed this session. I hope that we do pass it and that we get on with the business of the Legislature. I'm sure Senator Nichol has some comments to add. None of us, I think, on the committee at any time ever intended that we were trying to be soft on criminals. That is not the intent of the bill. I don't think there's a member of that committee that leans that way. The committee wanted to be fair. The committee wanted to be just. I think that's what we have in the bill. I think the bill deserves to be advanced.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. President, colleagues. I think the reason you're finding some anxiety here is because of the first version that came out in the press. In the city of Omaha we read that this was going to do, for one thing, turn at least two hundred and some men out within 60 to 90 days. We read that if a man was on parole that there was nothing he could do that would take off his days off of parole. I'd like for Senator Anderson to answer two questions. What about this first version that was going to turn hundreds of inmates out within 90 days? It sounded like they had written the bill. Number two, as I understand it this amendment does fix it so that if a man is on parole then he can have days taken away from him. I would like to have a little more comment about that. Thirdly, I would think the Parole Board, who you say did not testify, would be tempered in the knowledge about humanbeings who have been incarcerated, that they would be very knowledgeable and helpful. I'm wondering why they were not invited in and insist to get their testimony?

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Koch.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. President, I think Senator Swigart asked for a response.

SENATOR SAVAGE: I'm sorry. Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: First of all in regard to the number of people who would be released the original charges about the bill were that it would be some place in the vicinity of 175 or 200 inmates who would be released early. The